

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A method for displaying connection information in a network topology
2 display, the method using a system including a processor coupled to a display screen, the
3 method comprising
4 obtaining connection information about a first node interconnected
5 with a second node;
6 displaying the first node on the display screen;
7 displaying the second node on the display screen;
8 if there is a single connection between the nodes then displaying a first
9 connection endpoint symbol on the display screen adjacent to both the first and second nodes;
10 if there are multiple connections between the nodes then displaying a
11 second connection endpoint symbol on the display screen adjacent to both the first and
12 second nodes; and
13 displaying a connector between the endpoint symbols.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the first connection endpoint symbol
2 comprises line end segments, wherein a first line end segment is adjacent to the first node and
3 a second line end segment is adjacent to the second node.
- 1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the second endpoint symbol comprises
2 a graphical symbol to indicate the existence of multiple connections.
- 1 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the second endpoint symbol includes a
2 two-pronged fork.
- 1 5. The method of claim 3, wherein the first and second termination
2 symbols are the same.
- 1 6. The method of claim 3, wherein the first and second termination
2 symbols are different.
- 1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein one or more of the connection
2 endpoint symbols includes a numeric indication of the number of connections.
- 1 8. The method of claim 1, the computer system further comprising a user
2 input device, the method further comprising

3 accepting a signal from the user input device to indicate that the user
4 has selected the second connection endpoint type displayed on the display screen; and
5 displaying an indication of the number of connections represented by
6 the selected second connection endpoint type.

1 9. The method of claim 7, wherein the step of displaying an indication
2 includes a substep of
3 displaying a text description of the number of connections.

1 10. The method of claim 8, wherein the text is displayed in a pop-up box.

1 11. The method of claim 1, wherein the multiple connections include
2 redundant connections.

1 12. The method of claim 1, wherein the multiple connections include
2 separate channels.

1 13. The method of claim 1, wherein the multiple connections include
2 discrete physical connections.

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1 14. An apparatus for displaying connection information, the apparatus
2 comprising
3 a processor coupled to a display screen;
4 a data source coupled to the processor for providing connection
5 information about a first node interconnected with a second node;
6 one or more node display processes for displaying the first and second
7 nodes on the display screen;
8 one or more connection display processes for displaying a first
9 connection endpoint symbol on the display screen adjacent to both the first and second nodes
10 if there is a single connection between the nodes, and for displaying a second connection
11 endpoint symbol on the display screen adjacent to both the first and second nodes if there are
12 more than one connections between the nodes.

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1 15. A computer-readable medium including instructions for execution in a
2 system including a processor coupled to a display screen, the instructions comprising
3 obtaining connection information about a first node interconnected
4 with a second node;
5 displaying the first node on the display screen;
6 displaying the second node on the display screen;
7 if there is a single connection between the nodes then performing the
8 step of displaying a first connection endpoint symbol on the display screen adjacent to both
9 the first and second nodes;
10 if there are multiple connections between the nodes then performing
11 the step of displaying a second connection endpoint symbol on the display screen adjacent to
12 both the first and second nodes.
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1 16. A method for displaying connection information in a network topology
2 display, the method using a system including a processor coupled to a display screen and user
3 input device, the method comprising the following steps performed by the processor
4 displaying a connection between first and second nodes on the display screen,
5 wherein the displayed connection corresponds to multiple connections between the nodes;
6 accepting signals from the user input device to indicate that the user has
7 selected the connection; and
8 in response to the step of accepting signals, performing the step of displaying
9 additional information about the connection on the display screen.

1 17. The method of claim 15, wherein the step of displaying additional
2 information includes substep of
3 displaying a number indicating the number of connections between the
4 nodes.

1 18. The method of claim 15, wherein the user input device is used to
2 control the position of a pointer displayed on the screen, wherein the step of accepting signals
3 includes the substep of
4 determining that the pointer has been moved near the connection.
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1 19. A computer readable medium including instructions for execution in a
2 system including a processor coupled to a display screen, the instructions comprising
3 displaying a connection between first and second nodes on the display screen,
4 wherein the displayed connection corresponds to multiple connections between the nodes;
5 accepting signals from the user input device to indicate that the user has
6 selected the connection; and
7 in response to the step of accepting signals, performing the step of displaying
8 additional information about the connection on the display screen.